

A sleeping valley awaits awakening

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MIDWAY — On an early morning walk down the country streets of Midway all that can be heard is the quiet sounds of gravel under foot, the music of birds, and cows waiting for their first meal.

It's nearing fall and there's a nip in the air. As morning light edges over the mountains, lights appear in windows. Every now and then a jogger will pass, or a dog, or a cat, but most people are still in bed, sleeping, and waiting for the Heber Valley to wake.

In a little village in Switzerland, tucked in the Emmenthaler Valley 30 miles from Bern, it's nearing evening. Cows there await dinner and factory workers are nearing the end of their shifts. It's a small, beautiful valley community. Cheese is made here and famous Cambley Biscuits, better described as cookies to Americans and others who benefit from this town's exports.

Both towns are miles apart but have something in common. They're sister cities, as of last year when Midway Mayor Eugene R. Probst and a host of others traveled to Switzerland in search of a community similar to Midway. They found Trubschachen, Switz., similar in landscape and population.

Probst said officials in Trubschachen invited representatives of Midway to return in September to sign official sister-city documents. But scheduling conflicts will not allow the trip. For their part, Trubschachen natives are planning a visit to Midway next year. What they'll find is one of Utah's best kept secrets — one of its most beautiful secrets — waiting to explode into what could become the state's most attractive tourist spot.

"This has been called Utah's sleeping valley, said Robert Fuller, a Midway resident with roots stretching to Midway's early years,



Brian Tregaskis Photo

Swiss Oaks is Midway's Swiss village, privately developed with tennis courts and plans for a clubhouse. and back further to Switzerland.

It was 1968 when then 19-year-old Fuller, a would-be dentist, came before Midway's town council and inquired about building a Swiss Village up near the mountains of Heber Valley. Midway had been loyal in producing a Swiss festival of sorts since 1957. Probst said it started out as a harvest festival, but soon changed to Swiss Days to highlight the roots

of many who first traveled to the valley as settlers.

Fuller's ancestors were among them, having first arrived in 1863. Midway was called "Mound City" back then. The settlers came when Indian problems in Duchesne forced them to a safer place, a place where they could build a fort.

Fuller's family, the Schneitters, acquired

about 600 acres, eventually began running The Homestead and spent the years farming, mining and running the lodge. They sold it in 1953 and it has since been sold again.

In '68 Fuller said Midway's festival acknowledged "Mound City's" earlier settlers, but there was nothing Swiss there. His dream

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Monday night and Jackson replied simply, "Thank you."

No fanfare, no gifts and no birthday cake, in keeping with remnants of Jackson's earlier Jehovah's Witnesses religious beliefs, tour spokesman Bob Jones said.

Police described the event as "very successful" from their point of view, with only 96 arrests, most for drunkenness, damage and drug offenses.

All 90,000 tickets for the concert were sold months ago and the most serious injury reported was a broken leg suffered by a man as ticketless fans tried to enter the arena.

Family gathers for star's 80th

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fred MacMurray will be surrounded by the women of his life at a small gathering to celebrate his 80th birthday today.

On hand will be his wife of 34 years, former actress June Haver, the couple's twin 32-year-old daughters, Kate and Laurie, and his two dogs, also females.

"He's the father of 'My Three Sons' but he's surrounded by females," his wife said Monday during a telephone interview. MacMurray, who is recovering



Fred MacMurray

The Daily Herald

up so children could chase chickens and greased pigs and climb a greased pole. "They grease a pole and put a \$10 bill on top and let the kids climb it. I remember they had the teams and the wagons. The idea was to harness your team, hook them up to the

uance, Swiss market, concessions, a pet show, children's games and cannonading, with 4-H and Daughters of the Utah Pioneers participating.

Cannonading was "where, early in the morning they'd get up and blow dynamite off to wake everybody up. That

the Midway Boosters did it.

The boosters use the proceeds from Swiss Days for community projects, like the Glockenspiel that was installed in the town hall last year and the signs they put up this year to welcome visitors.



Brian Tregaskis Photo

Dr. Robert Fuller stands on a balcony at Swiss Oaks, overlooking Heber Valley.

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was to build a Swiss Village, but he said there was no city master plan in place and there was no access to water in the place Fuller wanted to build.

In 1975, Fuller, now in dental school, approached the city again. He wanted to build his village on the 24 acres his family still owned on a mountain overlooking The Homestead. The city now had a master plan conducive to such a project, but part of the project required that Midway annex county land. But Fuller said the county wasn't interested.

In 1983 Fuller's dream hadn't faded. He said Mayor Probst came to him and asked if he was still interested in developing his land. Midway had caught the vision and this little valley hamlet was taking on a Swiss look.



Brian Tregaskis Photo

The Probst Hotel, proposed for Midway's Main Street, would feature specialty shops and further give Midway its Swiss identity.

ley and golf course views, have been brisk. But it's only part of the story.

Midway's town center has a

fire so we're just waiting to see what happens."

Among them are the new

at The Homestead, part of several projects she's developing for the valley.

Hamill is trying to bring a

the U.S. Ski Team based in nearby Park City, the vision is to make the area a winter training ground for the best athletes in the country.

Probst said the city applied for the grants last year but missed the deadline for submitting the proposal. The city will try again this fall.

Completion of the Jordanelle Dam will bring a reservoir 2½ times the size of Deer Creek just up the road from Midway. It promises to bring literally thousands of tourists to the area.

"We want it to be a major tourist place. We love people to come here, leave their money and go away," said Fuller.

The proposed ski interconnect, linking the seven ski resorts along the Wasatch Front, could make its base, or at least have access through Midway. It would bring skiers